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For Immediate Release
March 2, 2004

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Sen. Garcia: Owens' resignation will hurt state, as do burdensome regulations

Lansing - State Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, lamented Charles Owens' resignation from the Michigan Occupational Health Standards Commission's Ergonomics Advisory Committee, calling it further proof that Michigan's regulatory climate is driving jobs out of the state.

"The governor talks about bringing everyone together to solve problems, yet her own MIOSHA is ignoring input from the business community," Garcia said. "This goes against what she said in her State of the State Address."

Owens, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business, resigned last month. He was protesting the Occupational Health Standards Commission and the General Industry Safety Standards Commission going forward with a rule on ergonomic standards rather than using the 16-member advisory group to determine if such a rule was needed.

"This is just one more example of how government restrictions are killing job opportunities in this state," Garcia said. "In this case, 48 other states see fit to follow OSHA's guidelines that call for voluntary compliance with ergonomic standards. The Legislature is working to ease restrictions on businesses, not add to their headaches."

The Legislature recently unveiled the second phase of their JOBS package: Job Opportunities for Business Success. Initiatives in the package will create new jobs, save existing jobs, and promote a healthier and friendlier business climate in Michigan.

"Our focus must be on improving Michigan's business climate so we can promote a healthier economy and attract new jobs," Garcia said.

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